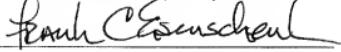


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on February 20, 2007.



Frank C. Eisenschenk, Ph.D., Patent Attorney

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
Examining Group 1634  
Patent Application  
Docket No. UTR-107X  
Serial No. 10/788,432

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Katherine D. Salmon  
Art Unit : 1634  
Applicants : Aaron D. Peacock, Greg A. Davis, David C. White  
Serial No. : 10/788,432  
Filed : February 27, 2004  
Conf. No. : 8113  
For : Methods of Sampling Microbial Communities and Apparatus Therefor

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Sir:

Applicants request that the period for response be extended one month through and including February 20, 2007, the fees for which have been paid at the time this Amendment was filed. Applicants note that February 19, 2007 was a federal holiday.

In response to the Office Action dated October 17, 2006, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows: